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Items 38 and 81 of the preliminary list*

SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 6 June 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of the Russian Federation and the Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit the texts of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and Ukraine on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership (annex I), a Russian-Ukrainian declaration (annex II) and a joint statement by the Russian Federation and Ukraine (annex III), signed on 31 May 1997 in Kiev by the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris N. Yeltsin, and the President of Ukraine, Mr. Leonid D. Kuchma.

We should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 38 and 81 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) S. LAVROV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

(Signed) A. ZLENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Ukraine to the
United Nations

* A/52/50.

ANNEX I

Treaty between the Russian Federation and Ukraine on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership, signed in Kiev on 31 May 1997

The Russian Federation and Ukraine, hereinafter referred to as the "High Contracting Parties",

Guided by the historically close ties and relations of friendship and cooperation between the peoples of Russia and Ukraine,

Noting that the Treaty between the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic of 19 November 1990 has contributed to the development of good-neighbourly relations between the two States,

Reaffirming their obligations under the provisions of the Agreement between the Russian Federation and Ukraine on the further development of inter-State relations, signed at Dagomys on 23 June 1992,

Considering that the strengthening of friendly relations, good-neighbourliness and mutually advantageous cooperation is in keeping with the basic interests of their peoples and serves the cause of peace and international security,

Desiring to improve the quality of these relations and strengthen their legal basis,

Determined to ensure the irreversibility and further progress of the democratic processes taking place in the two States,

Having regard to the agreements concluded within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Reaffirming their commitment to the norms of international law, first and foremost the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and complying with their obligations as members of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The High Contracting Parties, as friendly, equal and sovereign States, shall base their relations on mutual respect and confidence, strategic partnership and cooperation.

Article 2

The High Contracting Parties, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and their obligations under the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, shall respect each other's territorial integrity and confirm the inviolability of their common borders.

Article 3

The High Contracting Parties shall base their relations with each other on the principles of mutual respect, sovereign equality, territorial integrity, the inviolability of borders, the peaceful settlement of disputes, the non-use of force or threat of force, including economic and other means of pressure, the right of peoples to control their own destiny, non-interference in internal affairs, observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, cooperation among States, and conscientious fulfilment of international obligations and other universally recognized norms of international law.

Article 4

The High Contracting Parties believe that good-neighbourliness and cooperation between them are important factors in improving stability and security in Europe and the whole world. They shall engage in close cooperation with a view to strengthening international peace and security. They shall take the necessary measures to promote general disarmament, the creation and consolidation of a system of collective security in Europe, and the strengthening of the peacekeeping role of the United Nations and the improvement of the effectiveness of regional security mechanisms.

The Parties shall endeavour to ensure that all controversial issues are settled exclusively by peaceful means and shall cooperate in preventing and settling conflicts and situations that affect their interests.

Article 5

The High Contracting Parties shall hold regular consultations with a view to further deepening their bilateral relations and exchanging views on multilateral problems of mutual interest. When necessary, they shall coordinate their positions in order to carry out concerted action.

To this end, regular summit meetings shall be held by agreement between the Parties. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Parties shall meet at least twice a year.

Working meetings between representatives of other ministries and departments of the Parties shall be held as necessary to discuss questions of mutual interest.

The Parties may establish, on a permanent or temporary basis, joint commissions with a view to solving individual problems in diverse areas.

Article 6

Each High Contracting Party shall refrain from participating in, or supporting, any actions directed against the other High Contracting Party, and shall not conclude any treaties with third countries against the other Party. Neither Party shall allow its territory to be used to the detriment of the security of the other Party.

Article 7

If a situation arises which, in the opinion of one of the High Contracting Parties, poses a threat to peace, violates the peace or affects the interests of its national security, sovereignty or territorial integrity, it may propose to the other High Contracting Party that consultations on the subject be held without delay. The States shall exchange relevant information and, if necessary, carry out coordinated or joint measures with a view to overcoming the situation.

Article 8

The High Contracting Parties shall develop their relations in the field of military and military-technical cooperation and State security, as well as cooperation on border questions, and customs, export and immigration control, on the basis of separate agreements.

Article 9

The High Contracting Parties, affirming their determination to reduce their armed forces and weapons, shall promote the disarmament process and cooperate in the strict implementation of agreements on the reduction of armed forces and weapons, including nuclear weapons.

Article 10

Each High Contracting Party shall guarantee nationals of the other Party rights and freedoms on the same basis and to the same extent as their own citizens, except as established by the national legislation of the Parties or their international treaties.

Each Party shall protect, according to established procedure, the rights of their nationals residing in the territory of the other Party, in accordance with their obligations under instruments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and with other universally recognized principles and norms

of international law, and agreements concluded within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States, to which they are parties.

Article 11

The High Contracting Parties shall, in their territory, take the necessary measures, including the adoption of appropriate legislative acts, to prevent and suppress any activities that constitute an incitement to violence or violence against individuals or groups of citizens, based on national, racial, ethnic or religious intolerance.

Article 12

The High Contracting Parties shall protect the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of ethnic minorities in their territory and shall create conditions that encourage such diversity.

Each High Contracting Party shall guarantee the right of persons belonging to ethnic minorities, individually or together with other persons belonging to ethnic minorities, freely to express, preserve and develop their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious diversity and promote and develop their culture without being subjected to any attempts to assimilate them against their will.

The High Contracting Parties shall guarantee the right of persons belonging to ethnic minorities to exercise their human rights and fundamental freedoms fully and effectively and enjoy them without any discrimination whatsoever and in full equality before the law.

The High Contracting Parties shall promote equal opportunities and conditions for the study of the Russian language in Ukraine and of the Ukrainian language in the Russian Federation, and for the training of teachers to provide instruction in these languages in educational institutions and, to this end, shall provide the same degree of State support.

The High Contracting Parties shall conclude cooperation agreements on these questions.

Article 13

The High Contracting Parties shall develop equal and mutually advantageous economic cooperation and shall refrain from any actions that might cause economic damage to the other Party. To this end, recognizing the need for the gradual formation and development of a common economic area through the creation of conditions for the free movement of goods, services, capital and labour, the Parties shall take effective measures to coordinate a strategy for carrying out economic reforms, deepening economic integration on the basis of mutual advantage and harmonizing their economic legislation.

The High Contracting Parties shall ensure the broad exchange of economic information and ensure that enterprises, entrepreneurs and scholars of the two Parties have access to such information.

The Parties shall endeavour to coordinate their financial, monetary and credit, budget, currency, investment, price, taxation, trade and economic and customs policies and to create equal opportunities and guarantees for economic agents; they shall promote the formation and development of direct economic and trade relations at all levels, specialization and cooperation among technologically related industries, enterprises, associations, corporations, banks, producers and consumers.

The High Contracting Parties shall promote the maintenance and development, on the basis of mutual advantage, of cooperation in the fields of production and science and technology among industrial enterprises in the development and production of modern, scientifically advanced production, including production for defence purposes.

Article 14

The High Contacting Parties shall ensure favourable conditions for direct trade and other economic relations and cooperation at the level of administrative and territorial units in accordance with national legislation currently in force, devoting special attention to the development of economic ties between border regions.

Article 15

The High Contracting Parties shall ensure favourable economic, financial and legal conditions for the entrepreneurial and other economic activities of enterprises and organizations of the other Party, including the encouragement and reciprocal protection of their investments. The Parties shall encourage diverse forms of cooperation and direct ties between economic agents of the two States, irrespective of the forms of ownership.

Article 16

The High Contracting Parties shall cooperate in the United Nations and other international organizations, including economic and financial organizations, and shall support each other in gaining admission to international organizations and acceding to agreements and conventions to which one of the Parties is not a party.

Article 17

The High Contracting Parties shall expand cooperation in the field of transport and guarantee the freedom of transit of persons, goods and means of transport through each other's territory in accordance with the universally recognized norms of international law.

The carriage of goods and passengers by rail, air, sea, river and road between the two Parties and transit through their territory, including through sea, river and airports and by rail and road networks and also lines of communication, main pipeline and electrical networks situated in the territory of the other Party, shall be effected in accordance with the procedure and conditions specified in separate agreements.

Article 18

The High Contracting Parties shall cooperate in search and rescue activities, and in the investigation of transport accidents.

Article 19

The High Contracting Parties shall ensure the observance of a legal regime of State property and of property of juridical persons and nationals of one High Contracting Party, situated in the territory of the other High Contracting Party, in accordance with the legislation of that Party, unless otherwise agreed between the Parties.

The Parties take it that questions of property relations that affect their interests shall be settled on the basis of separate agreements.

Article 20

The High Contracting Parties shall devote special attention to the development of cooperation with a view to ensuring the operation of national fuel and energy industries, transport systems and communications and data-processing systems, promoting the maintenance, rational use and development of industries and individual systems in these fields.

Article 21

The High Contracting Parties shall, on the basis of separate agreements, cooperate in the exploration and use of outer space, and the joint production and development of space-flight technology, observing the principles of equality and mutual advantage and in accordance with international law. The High Contracting Parties shall promote the maintenance and development of ties of cooperation among enterprises of the space-flight industry.

Article 22

The High Contracting Parties shall assist each other in the elimination of accidents resulting from emergency situations in communications lines, main pipelines, energy systems, transport networks and other facilities of mutual interest to the two Parties.

The procedure for cooperation in emergency repairs and restoration work shall be specified in separate agreements.

Article 23

The High Contracting Parties shall cooperate in the fields of education, science and technology and in the development of research activities, encouraging direct ties between their research organizations and the implementation of joint programmes and projects, particularly in the area of advanced technologies. Questions relating to the use of the results of joint research, obtained in the course of cooperation, shall be dealt with on a case-by-case basis through the conclusion of separate agreements.

The Parties shall cooperate in the training of personnel and shall encourage the exchange of specialists, scholars, graduates, trainees and students. They shall reciprocally recognize the equivalence of diplomas, higher degrees and scholarly titles, and shall conclude a separate agreement on this question.

The Parties shall exchange scientific and technical information and shall cooperate in the protection of copyright and related rights, and other forms of intellectual property in accordance with the national legislation and the international obligations of their countries in this field.

Article 24

The High Contracting Parties shall develop cooperation in the fields of culture, literature, art, the media, tourism and sport.

The Parties shall cooperate in the preservation, restoration and use of their historical and cultural heritage.

The Parties shall in every way promote the strengthening and expansion of creative exchanges and interaction among groups, organizations and associations of persons in their countries who are active in the fields of literature and art, cinematography, book publishing and archives; the observance of traditional days of their national cultures; the holding of artistic festivals and exhibitions; guest performances of ensembles and soloists; the exchange of delegations of prominent cultural figures and specialists at the State, regional and local levels; and the establishment of national cultural centres in the territory of their States.

The Parties shall provide State support in the elaboration and conduct of joint programmes for the revitalization and development of the tourist industry, the exploration of new potential recreational areas, the preservation, restoration and effective use of cultural and historical and religious monuments and buildings. They shall in every way encourage the strengthening of contacts between sports organizations and clubs, and the joint conduct of inter-State sporting events.

The Parties shall jointly develop and implement mutually advantageous programmes for developing a material and technical base for television and radio, including satellite broadcasting, and shall organize, on a parity basis, television and radio broadcasts in Ukrainian in the Russian Federation and in Russian in Ukraine.

The Parties shall promote contacts between people, political parties and social movements, trade unions, religious organizations and associations, and health, sports, tourist and other associations and unions.

The whole range of questions covered in this article shall be dealt with in separate agreements.

Article 25

The High Contracting Parties shall cooperate in the protection and improvement of the environment, the prevention of transboundary pollution, the rational and resource-conserving utilization of the natural environment, the elimination of the consequences of natural and technogenic emergencies and shall promote coordinated action in this area at the regional and global levels with a view to creating a comprehensive system of international environmental safety.

The Parties take it that questions relating to environmental protection and environmental safety, including the protection and use of the ecosystems and resources of the Dnieper river and other transboundary watercourses, and action in response to environmental emergencies, shall be dealt with in separate agreements.

Article 26

The High Contracting Parties shall cooperate in the elimination of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and shall conclude a separate agreement on this question.

Article 27

The High Contracting Parties shall develop cooperation in the field of social protection, including the social security of their citizens. They shall conclude separate agreements with a view to solving questions of labour relations, job placement, social protection, compensation for losses involving physical injury or other impairment of health resulting from industrial accidents, the social security of citizens of one Party who are employed or who are working as trainees in the territory of the other Party, and on other questions in this field that require coordinated solutions.

The Parties shall ensure the unimpeded and timely transfer of pensions, allowances, alimony, monetary compensation for losses involving physical injury or other impairment of health, and other socially significant payments to

citizens of one Party residing permanently or temporarily in the territory of the other Party.

Article 28

The High Contracting Parties shall cooperate in the restoration of the rights of deported peoples in accordance with bilateral and multilateral agreements concluded within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Article 29

The High Contracting Parties, as Black Sea States, are prepared to continue to develop all-round cooperation in order to save and preserve the natural environment of the Azov-Black Sea basin, conducting marine and climatological research, utilizing the recreational potential and natural resources of the Black Sea and Sea of Azov, developing navigation and operating sea routes, ports and installations.

Article 30

The High Contracting Parties recognize the importance for the Russian Federation and Ukraine of maintaining a technologically unified system for the collection, processing, dissemination and use of hydrometeorological information and data on the state of the environment in order to safeguard the interests of the population and the national economy, and shall contribute in every way possible to the development of cooperation in the field of hydrometeorology and environmental monitoring.

Article 31

The High Contracting Parties shall devote special attention to the development of mutually advantageous cooperation in the field of health protection and the improvement of the sanitary and epidemiological situation, the production of medicines and medical equipment, and the training of highly qualified personnel for the medical facilities of the Parties.

Article 32

The High Contracting Parties shall cooperate in solving questions relating to the regulation of migration processes, including measures to prevent and prohibit illegal migration from third countries, for which they shall conclude a separate agreement.

Article 33

The High Contracting Parties shall cooperate in combating crime, especially organized crime, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including criminal acts directed against the safety of maritime navigation, civil aviation and other forms of transport, illegal trafficking in radioactive materials, weapons, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and contraband, including the illegal transfer across the border of objects of cultural, historical or artistic value.

Article 34

The High Contracting Parties shall cooperate in the legal sphere on the basis of separate agreements.

Article 35

The High Contracting Parties shall promote the development of contacts and cooperation between the parliaments and parliamentarians of the two States.

Article 36

This Treaty shall not affect the rights and obligations of the High Contracting Parties arising from other international treaties to which they are parties.

Article 37

Disputes regarding the interpretation or application of the provisions of this Treaty shall be settled through consultations and negotiations between the High Contracting Parties.

Article 38

The High Contracting Parties shall conclude with one another other agreements necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this Treaty, as well as agreements in fields of mutual interest.

Article 39

This Treaty is subject to ratification and shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification.

On the day this Treaty enters into force, the Treaty between the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic of 19 November 1990 shall cease to have effect.

Article 40

This Treaty is concluded for a period of 10 years. It shall subsequently be extended automatically for further 10-year periods unless one of the High Contracting Parties notifies the other High Contracting Party in writing of its desire to terminate it at least six months before the expiry of the current 10-year period.

Article 41

This Treaty shall be registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

DONE at Kiev on 31 May 1997 in duplicate in the Russian and Ukrainian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Russian Federation:

(Signed) B. YELTSIN

For Ukraine:

(Signed) L. KUCHMA

ANNEX II

Russian-Ukrainian declaration signed in Kiev on 31 May 1997

In the course of a State visit to Ukraine on 30 and 31 May 1997, the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris N. Yeltsin, and the President of Ukraine, Mr. Leonid D. Kuchma, held a detailed discussion of the state of, and prospects for developing, Russian-Ukrainian cooperation in diverse areas, as well as a broad range of international issues. The negotiations between the Presidents took place in an atmosphere of cordiality, goodwill and mutual respect.

1. The Presidents stressed that relations between the Russian Federation and Ukraine are based on the principles of equality, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the two States and are conducted in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the basic instruments of international law, the Helsinki Final Act and subsequent instruments of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

They noted the major role that the Russian-Ukrainian Treaty of 19 November 1990 and the Agreement between the Russian Federation and Ukraine on the further development of their inter-State relations of 23 June 1992 played in the development of new relations between the two countries, while preserving the centuries-old traditions of friendship, kinship and spiritual affinity between the Russian and Ukrainian peoples.

Experience convincingly shows that good-neighbourliness and mutually advantageous cooperation between the Russian Federation and Ukraine is in keeping with their basic national interests and are an important factor in strengthening global and regional stability.

The Russian Federation welcomed Ukraine's acquisition of non-nuclear status and reaffirmed its commitment to the Trilateral Statement by the Presidents of the Russian Federation, the United States of America and Ukraine of 14 January 1994 and the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with Ukraine's Accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, signed in Budapest on 5 December 1994.

The Treaty between the Russian Federation and Ukraine on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership, signed in Kiev on 31 May 1997, begins a new era in Russian-Ukrainian relations and constitutes a solid basis for the further development of mutually advantageous cooperation.

The heads of State welcome the completion of negotiations to settle the question of the Black Sea fleet. The agreements that have been signed create conditions for the normal operation of the Russian Black Sea fleet and its lease of the main base in Sevastopol for 20 years. The agreements will help strengthen security and stability in the region.

The Presidents agree that the peoples of the Russian Federation and Ukraine shall continue to live and work in peace and harmony, supporting each other at a crucial stage in their history, when they are carrying out, in their independent sovereign States, large-scale reforms with a view to establishing a democratic society and a State based on rule of law, with a socially oriented market economy.

2. In their consideration of international issues, the Presidents noted that historical changes are currently taking place in the world arena, which mark the transition of mankind from global bloc confrontation to a multipolar world in which the diversity of political, economic and cultural development is becoming firmly established. These transformations have become possible, first of all, as a result of the rejection of confrontational thought and politics.

The heads of the two States emphasized the need to strengthen the United Nations as the mainstay of the global system of international security, and they expressed their support for further improving the effectiveness of the Organization by adapting it to the new challenges of the modern world.

The Russian Federation and Ukraine are in favour of creating a model of general and comprehensive security for Europe in the twenty-first century, in which the interests of all countries would be taken into account. In this regard, they attach great importance to the decision of the Lisbon Summit of OSCE on developing a Charter on European Security. They expressed the conviction that OSCE has a special role to play in building a secure, stable, united and free community of States from Vancouver to Vladivostok. The further strengthening of OSCE is in keeping with the interests of the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

The Presidents consider that the instruments on relations between the Russian Federation and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and between the Ukraine and NATO safeguard the national interests of their countries and contribute to the strengthening of security and stability in European and Atlantic region.

Mr. Boris N. Yeltsin and Mr. Leonid D. Kuchma noted the importance of the admission of the Russian Federation and Ukraine into the Council of Europe in order to consolidate high standards in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Presidents reaffirmed the desire of their States for the further progressive development of relations with the European Union in the context of all-European economic integration.

The heads of State are in favour of the comprehensive development of political, economic and humanitarian relations among the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States and of improving the effectiveness of the Commonwealth's activities.

3. The Presidents devoted priority attention to the dynamic development of bilateral relations, the political basis for which is the Treaty between the Russian Federation and Ukraine on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership. A

solid legal and contractual basis is being established for Russian-Ukrainian interaction in the political, economic, scientific and technological and humanitarian fields. Contacts between bodies of the legislative and executive authorities of the Russian Federation and Ukraine are expanding. In the field of trade and economy, in spite of a number of difficulties, the volume of mutual trade in 1996 amounted to $17.8 billion. Military and technical cooperation is being developed.

Measures are being taken to ensure conditions for unimpeded communication between nationals of the Russian Federation and Ukraine, who every year make more than 20 million trips between the two countries.

The Presidents reached agreement on the main tasks for further developing and deepening Russian-Ukrainian ties, and stated that the paramount task was to ensure the practical implementation of the provisions of the new general political Treaty signed during the visit.

The Presidents agreed to conclude a treaty on the Russian-Ukrainian State border, including its delimitation, and agreed to step up negotiations on these questions. The Russian Federation and Ukraine will continue their concerted efforts to counteract criminal elements, contraband and illegal migration.

Mr. Boris Yeltsin and Mr. Leonid D. Kuchma expressed their support for the continued growth of mutual trade, the harmonization of economic relations, the creation of the necessary conditions for establishing mutually advantageous cooperation between economic agents, the settlement of existing disputes in the area of mutual trade, and the speedy removal of artificial trade barriers. The Presidents reaffirmed the importance of observing a regime of free trade between the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

The placing of economic ties on a long-term, stable basis is a matter of urgency. The planned improvement of the mechanism of trade and economic relations must provide for the creation of the necessary conditions for developing market-based cooperation, broader access of Russian and Ukrainian capital to each other's markets, the development of joint investment projects, the formation of transnational financial and industrial groups and the creation of intergovernmental special-purpose programmes.

The ensuring of guaranteed and stable deliveries of sources of energy and the mutually acceptable solution of questions relating to the transit of goods through each other's territory on the basis of appropriate agreements are of strategic importance to the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

The Presidents consider it necessary to deepen industrial and scientific and technical cooperation in fields of priority interest to the Russian Federation and Ukraine: the exploration of outer space, the aircraft industry, atomic energy, the fuel and energy sector, electronics, metallurgy and the production of agricultural equipment. The implementation of such joint projects as Morskoy start ("Sea Start") and the production of AN-70 aircraft and new agricultural machinery will help maintain and develop existing potential, create new jobs and provide access to the markets of third countries.

The national academies of sciences should play an important role in the deepening of scientific cooperation.

The Presidents stressed the need for unconditional respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the preservation and development, in accordance with universally recognized norms, of the ethnic, linguistic, cultural and religious diversity of all peoples living in the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

Guided by the interests of tens of millions of people living in the Russian Federation and Ukraine who are linked by diverse ties, including ties of kinship, the States shall promote contacts among people and public bodies, encourage cooperation in the fields of education, science, culture and the media and promote the study of the Russian language in Ukraine and the Ukrainian language in the Russian Federation.

An agreement was reached on the opening of information and cultural centres of the Russian Federation in Kiev and of Ukraine in Moscow.

The Presidents expressed their support for cooperation between border areas and between regions in all spheres.

Mr. Boris N. Yeltsin and Mr. Leonid D. Kuchma consider the strengthening of relations between the Russian Federation and Ukraine a matter of paramount importance in their activities, and successful cooperation as priorities of the two States and peoples. To this end, they recognized the need to continue an active political dialogue, including dialogue at the highest level, improve the effectiveness of the Russian-Ukrainian Joint Commission on Cooperation and promote the development of businesslike relations between economic agents and entrepreneurial circles of the two States.

* * *

The President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris N. Yeltsin, invited the President of Ukraine, Mr. Leonid D. Kuchma, to make a State visit to the Russian Federation. The invitation was gratefully accepted. The date of the visit will be set later.

(Signed) B. YELTSIN
President of the Russian Federation

(Signed) L. KUCHMA
President of Ukraine

ANNEX III

Joint statement by the Russian Federation and Ukraine, signed in Kiev on 31 May 1997

The Presidents of the Russian Federation and Ukraine welcome the recent signing in Kiev of Russian-Ukrainian agreements settling the issue of the Black Sea fleet. A problem that has complicated Russian-Ukrainian cooperation for some years has been solved.

The agreements concluded mark a new chapter in the more than 200-year history of the Hero-City Sevastopol and the Black Sea fleet, and are an important milestone in the fraternal relations between two great peoples - the Russian and Ukrainian peoples - and have paved the way for the signing of a new general political Treaty that lays the foundation for relations of friendship, cooperation and partnership between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. These agreements will help strengthen a spirit of mutual understanding and confidence between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, and will become a major stabilizing factor in the entire system of relations between our States.

The status of the Russian Black Sea fleet, the terms and duration of its presence in hospitable Ukraine have now been clearly defined. The main base of the Russian Black Sea fleet shall be in Sevastopol. In a solemn ceremony, the St. Andrew flag shall be raised on Russian ships, and the flags of the Ukrainian navy on Ukrainian ships. The Russian Black Sea fleet and the Ukrainian navy are gaining broad opportunities for further deepening cooperation between the two States in the naval sphere on the Black Sea, and they will cooperate in safeguarding the southern borders of our two countries.

As we note the significance of the agreements that were reached, we recall the heroic pages of the history of Sevastopol. The legendary defence during the Crimean War made the name of this city a synonym of heroism and patriotism throughout the world. During the Great Patriotic War, the sailors, soldiers and inhabitants of the city covered themselves with unfading glory. Sevastopol was and forever shall remain in our memories a city of military glory, military valour, a symbol of our comradeship in arms and the personification of friendship between the Russian and Ukrainian peoples. The city's sites of military glory and its museums and memorials will continue to be objects of attention and veneration of our compatriots and by people of all generations.

With particular warmth, we today address the war and labour veterans of Sevastopol, whose deeds shall never be forgotten either in the Russian Federation or Ukraine. These people fully deserve a secure and dignified old age. The Governments of the two States shall cooperate to this end, carrying out joint economic, scientific and technical, transport and cultural projects.

We assure the workers of the city, by whose efforts the good name and glorious traditions of the Hero-City are upheld and preserved, that everything will be done to ensure the prosperity of Sevastopol, in the name of friendship and solidarity among people.

In the spirit of the agreements that have been signed - in today's difficult economic circumstances - the necessary measures shall continue to be taken to improve the life of the people of Sevastopol, strengthen its economic potential and solve the social problems of servicemen and members of their families and of all the city's inhabitants.

We sincerely wish all inhabitants of Sevastopol, Russians and Ukrainians, servicemen and civilians, good health, well-being and happiness.

(Signed) B. YELTSIN
President of the Russian Federation

(Signed) L. KUCHMA
President of Ukraine

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Item 12 of the preliminary list*
REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Substantive session of 1997
Geneva, 30 June-25 July 1997
Item 6 (d) of the provisional agenda**
COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS: COORDINATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY

Possibilities of strengthening the coordination of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the field of energy within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/52/50.

** E/1997/100.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, at its second session (12-23 February 1996), requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the activities of the United Nations system in the field of energy for consideration by the Committee at its third session in 1998.[1] The Economic and Social Council, when considering the report of the Committee at its substantive session in 1996, requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report, taking into account, as appropriate, the views of the Committee, on the possibilities of strengthening the coordination of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the field of energy within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and to submit the report, through the Council, to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-second session. The Council further requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with regional commissions and other entities within the United Nations system, to address in the same report the need to enhance the capability of the system in the field of energy for sustainable development and to explore all possible options for a high-level discussion in this context, taking into account the results of the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (7-25 April 1997) and of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly (23-27 June 1997).[2]

2. The present report has been prepared in response to that request. It is based on information compiled in-house as well as that provided by the relevant entities within the United Nations system. It draws heavily on the report of the Secretary-General to the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, entitled "Inventory of ongoing energy-related programmes and activities of entities within the United Nations system, on coordination of such activities and on arrangements needed to foster the linkage between energy and sustainable development within the system",[3] requested by the Commission on at its fourth session, in 1996. The present report benefited from inputs by the entities within the United Nations system concerned with energy; discussions at and the report of the Expert Workshop on fostering the linkage between energy and sustainable development within the international institutions, which was hosted by the Austrian Ministry for the Environment, Youth and Family Affairs and held at Vienna from 22 to 24 January 1997;[4] the report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on Energy after Rio: prospects and challenges,[5] as well as the discussions on the subject at the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (7-25 April 1997). Comments on the outline of the report were also received from members of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development.

3. The report consists of a description of activities, assessments, recommendations and proposals. Section II contains a brief discussion on the relationship between energy and sustainable development. Section III provides an overview of mandates and the activities of the organizations in the field of energy as well as an assessment of the linkage of those activities to sustainable development. Section IV deals with cooperation and coordination of energy activities within the system. Section V presents recommendations and proposals on enhancing the capability of the United Nations system in the field

of energy for sustainable development. Section VI contains options for a high-level discussion on energy.

II. ENERGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

4. A more detailed discussion on the topic of energy and sustainable development is contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session on energy-related programmes and activities.[3]

5. Energy plays a key role in achieving environmentally sound economic and social objectives that lead to sustainable development, a point which has been underscored by the Commission on Sustainable Development. Agenda 21[6] and other internationally agreed plans of action adopted at major United Nations conferences, as well as relevant conventions, provide a global framework containing goals and objectives for sustainable socio-economic development and specified actions related to energy production, transmission, conversion and use to realize those goals and objectives.

6. The development and use of energy resources and technologies should be realized in a socially acceptable manner. It should be clean and safe, should not exceed the carrying capacity of existing ecosystems and thus should not endanger the quality of life of the present and future generations. The use of scarce resources to meet current energy service requirements should not jeopardize the ability of future generations to meet their needs for the same services.[4] It is critically important that short-term options for the development and use of energy resources be in harmony with those options that, in the longer term, better contribute to sustainable development. The supply of energy should be reliable and secure - at reasonable costs. Access to and therefore adequate availability of energy service is a prerequisite to achieving the socio-economic development required to improve quality of life and satisfy basic human needs. An adequate supply of energy services is urgently needed in many developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries, remote rural areas and small island developing States, where more than two billion people have little or no access to commercial energy services.[1]

7. The current policies for and patterns of production, conversion, distribution and use of energy are, in general, unsustainable, characterized as they are by a strong emphasis on energy supply rather than demand, including demand-side management, and lack due regard to the social, economic and environmental consequences of such approaches. As was affirmed by the Commission on Sustainable Development, advances towards sustainable energy use are taking place. The Commission also underscored that it is necessary to ensure international cooperation for promoting energy conservation and the improvement of energy efficiency.[7]

8. The development and use of energy are highly capital-intensive activities. Estimates of capital investment requirements for the development and use of energy resources in developing countries, while not exhaustive, are nevertheless enormous. Substantial investments will also be required to replace ageing plants to improve efficiency and to reduce environmental impacts of the

development and use of energy, in particular, fossil fuels. There are also many other competing requirements for financial resources.[3]

9. Current energy prices favour the development and use of conventional energy sources over renewable ones. At the same time, current practices in fuel pricing do not encourage energy efficiency. In most cases there is little or no regard for the external social and environmental costs of energy supply. Subsidies in the energy sector for conventional energy sources and nuclear power tend to hamper widespread development and application of renewable energy sources. Policy changes leading to the full internalization of environmental costs in prices through the use of economic and fiscal instruments and to the removal of permanent subsidies are required in order to establish an enabling policy environment and to achieve a sustainable energy future.[3]

10. It is evident that the challenges of achieving a sustainable energy future are enormous and that they require the contribution of all concerned parties. It is imperative that all of those concerned - governments, the international community, the private sector and non-governmental organizations - develop strategies that include increased efficiency in energy production, transmission, distribution and, in particular, energy end-use; a shift towards environmentally sound energy sources and technologies, including expanded use of renewable sources of energy; and a shift towards environmentally sound, safe and cost-effective production, conversion and use of depletable sources of energy, making full use of advances in technology in those areas. All concerned parties should pursue the promotion, development and implementation of policies and programmes, as appropriate, designed to ensure that such strategies achieve the desired goals.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY

A. Mandates and policies

11. The policies and programmes of the entities within the United Nations system in the energy field form an integral part of the overall objectives of the United Nations organization. The United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, held at Nairobi in 1981, provided explicit energy-related policies and programmes. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, also discussed energy and concluded that energy was essential to economic and social development and improved quality of life. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change relates its implementation to the energy policies of the parties to the Convention. In the subsequent major conferences, energy received attention as one of the key factors for furthering sustainable development. The United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Barbados in 1994, adopted the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which includes a chapter on energy resources that identifies issues, problems and constraints facing the States and recommends ways and means of ensuring adequate, environmentally sound energy supplies for meeting their social and economic development objectives.

12. Policy discussions on energy take place in various intergovernmental bodies. The Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development addresses a wide range of issues on energy and sustainable development, including the development of energy resources in developing countries, the development and use of renewable sources of energy, energy efficiency improvement, environmentally sound development and use of fossil fuels, the development and implementation of rural energy policies, energy and transportation and coordination of energy activities within the United Nations system. For its deliberations, it is provided with in-depth reports by the Secretary-General. The Committee reports to the Economic and Social Council.

13. General discussions on energy also take place among other intergovernmental bodies, such as the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (in relation to energy and environment issues), the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) (in relation to nuclear energy and related environmental issues), the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (in relation to the emission of greenhouse gases), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Executive Board of UNDP and the United Nations Population Fund (energy for sustainable human development) and the Statistical Commission (energy statistics). The World Bank's energy activities are based on the objectives approved by the Bank's Board of Executive Directors. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has produced an operational strategy. Policy discussions on energy also take place in the regional commissions, which have standing committees on energy or on energy and natural resources. The High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development addressed energy policy issues in its report to the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development entitled "Critical issues and policies for sustainable development: energy, transport and water".[8]

B. Overview of programmes and activities

14. A wide range of activities has been reported, reflecting, as they do, the mandates, policies and programmes of the respective entities. For more details see the annex to the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Sustainable Development entitled "Inventory of ongoing energy-related programmes and activities of entities within the United Nations system, on coordination of such activities and on arrangements needed to foster the linkage between energy and sustainable development within the system".[3] The means of implementing the programmes and activities have varied widely and have, on the whole, involved the preparation of studies and reports; technical assistance, including advisory services by experts in specific fields; the organization of training workshops, seminars, meetings and conferences; institution- and capacity-building for assessment of resources, planning, analysis and data management, policy formulation and implementation; and provision of financial assistance. The magnitude of the financial resources allocated to each project varies widely, from millions of dollars for financial assistance projects to a few hundred dollars for specific studies or expert services. The World Bank, UNDP, GEF and IAEA are the main sources of funds for energy projects. The regional development banks also have substantial lending programmes in support of energy sector development.

15. The entities within the United Nations system are active in all the stages of the energy cycle at the national, regional and global levels. There are activities in energy development and supply, including assessment exploration, production, conversion and distribution of energy resources; promoting the development of renewable sources of energy; and electricity generation and distribution, including rural electrification.

16. Activities and programmes related to energy use include energy conservation, improved energy efficiency and demand-side management and improved management techniques for energy institutions and enterprises. Associated activities include energy planning encompassing policy development, energy analysis and projections, development of methodologies and analytical techniques including models for energy studies and evaluation, and environmental impact assessment. Energy planning has in most cases been taken up as a sectoral activity; however in some instances a more integrated approach is taken, for example, through the integration of energy policies into overall socio-economic development, the integrated assessment of energy and sustainable rural development, the integration of environmental, social and health concerns into energy planning and analysis, energy and environmental planning in urban areas and as part of an integrated resource planning approach.[3]

17. Activities in capacity- and institution-building, awareness-raising, education and training have been pursued through workshops, seminars and dissemination of information (publications and field surveys). Those in technology transfer have been mainly related to the development and commercial application of renewable sources of energy, promotion of energy efficiency and demonstration projects.[9]

C. Assessment of the linkage between energy activities within the United Nations system and sustainable development

18. The activities of many organizations within the United Nations system have over the past years underscored the relation between energy and sustainable development. The policies and mandates of the respective entities, both before and especially since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, have espoused this trend. The United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, which adopted the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, has had an impact on the programmes and activities of many organizations: several have introduced or expanded their programmes and projects in the field of new and renewable sources of energy.[3]

19. More recently, the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/235 of 13 April 1992 establishing the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, indicated that in addition to implementing the Nairobi Programme of Action, the Committee would consider energy in relation to the environment. Many entities have been pursuing that mandate. With the adoption of resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, in which the Assembly endorsed Agenda 21 and urged the adoption and entry into force of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the stage was set for linking energy and sustainable development. Entities within the United Nations system

have, as a result, adjusted their programmes and projects in varying degrees to reflect the objectives of Agenda 21.

20. Achieving a sustainable energy future demands a concerted effort by all actors concerned, including the United Nations system. In response to the demands and priorities of the countries that they support, the organizations of the United Nations are involved in a broad range of activities, which in general terms are commensurate with the goals of realizing a sustainable energy future. Increasing attention is being given by a number of entities to energy efficiency, conservation, demand-side management and pricing policies. Several organizations contribute to the promotion and dissemination of clean energy technologies, including clean coal technologies. Support for the further introduction and application of renewable energy sources is increasing, with a special emphasis on improving access of the rural population to energy services. In the area of capacity-building and institutional development, energy-planning activities are increasingly linked to the broader context of socioeconomic or environmental planning and plan implementation.[3]

21. The nature and level of energy activities linked to sustainable development by entities within the United Nations system vary widely. The following developments are of special importance. GEF places strong emphasis on environmentally sound technologies, which tends to favour the development of renewable sources of energy. The World Bank is by far the largest source of funding for environmental programmes and projects, including those related to energy. It is integrating social and environmental dimensions into all its operations, including energy, and all energy projects are screened for social and environmental impacts. UNDP places special emphasis on sustainable energy through the pursuit of more efficient energy patterns and support for major shifts towards renewable sources of energy; it links its energy projects to the overall objectives of the programmes related to poverty alleviation, gender equality and environmental sustainability. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continues to stress the need to mobilize energy to fulfil the needs of the food production chain as a means of achieving sustainable rural development. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is providing assistance to developing countries in capacity-building in the use of oil futures markets; it has also undertaken a study on the tradeable carbon emission entitlements scheme. The World Solar Summit, initiated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and held at Harare on 16 and 17 September 1996, attracted considerable political attention to the potential of renewable sources of energy, and follow-up activities have been initiated on the development of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, including a review of the structure and funding of projects.

22. The activities of the United Nations and its organizations while modest compared to the overall investment in the energy sector, nevertheless have an important role to play as catalysts or models for new developments aimed at achieving a sustainable energy future. The United Nations system has a significant interdisciplinary potential in the energy field that can be effectively used to support sustainable energy development in developing countries and economies in transition.

IV. STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN AND COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY

23. The merger of the three United Nations Departments working in the economic and social fields the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis and the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development provides a good opportunity to bring together the United Nations Secretariat's analytical, normative and technical capacities. The resulting synergies will enrich both the policy and the technical-cooperation dimensions of United Nations activities in those fields.

24. Through the Statistical Commission Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Statistical Activities, the United Nations Secretariat has continued to cooperate and coordinate with entities in the United Nations system in the collection, analysis and application of energy data and information. The Secretariat also addresses energy issues in the context of the World Economic and Social Survey. The Secretariat and other entities of the United Nations system are cooperating in the preparation of reports for the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, the Commission on Sustainable Development and other intergovernmental bodies.

25. The Secretariat, the World Bank and UNDP are cooperating in the implementation of GEF-funded projects at the national, regional and global levels. The United Nations Secretariat, UNDP and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) are also cooperating in the implementation of sustainable energy projects, such as one on the enhancement of capacity for sustainable energy services for rural development in Asia. The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women closely cooperates and coordinates its efforts with the regional commissions, the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Secretariat and other entities within and outside the United Nations system in its research and training activities related to energy.

26. UNDP and the World Bank have over the years been cooperating in the Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme, with the latter implementing the projects. UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank are the implementing agencies for GEF, which has been providing incremental costs for projects having global environmental benefits. The World Bank, UNDP and a number of other entities within and outside the United Nations system are jointly funding the Financing Energy Services for Small-scale Energy-Users programme. UNDP and the World Bank's Asia Alternative Energy Unit are also cooperating in a project to mainstream renewable energy and energy efficiency activities into the lending operations of the World Bank in the Asia and Pacific region.

27. UNESCO, with the active support of Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and IAEA, initiated the high-level World Solar Summit Process with the objective of promoting the development and deployment of renewable energy technologies as a contribution to sustainable development. Summit participants adopted the Harare Declaration on Solar Energy and Sustainable Development and the outline of the

World Solar Programme, 1996-2005. Follow-up activities have been initiated in consultation with other entities of the United Nations system on the development and implementation of the World Solar Programme. The Programme could constitute an important element of a broader system-wide programme on renewable sources of energy, in which other entities outside the United Nations may also wish to take part.

28. IAEA is coordinating an inter-agency project on databases and methodologies for comparative assessment of different energy sources for electricity generation in cooperation with a number of regional commissions, the World Bank, UNIDO, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and other international organizations.[3] The project, which is aimed at enhancing capabilities for the competent assessment of different sources of energy, could form a basis for system-wide cooperation in the development of methodologies for planning, policy formulation and implementation.

29. WMO and UNEP are cooperating in the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat is cooperating with several intergovernmental organizations and bodies such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, UNIDO, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the International Energy Agency on scientific and technological issues and on issues related to national communications (methodological issues, analysis and participation in reviews).

30. At the regional level, ECE and other entities within and outside the United Nations system have been cooperating in implementing the Energy Efficiency 2000 Projects, while ESCAP is executing the UNDP-funded Programme for Asian Cooperation on Energy and Environment. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, ESCAP, FAO, the World Bank, regional development banks and other international and regional organizations have been cooperating in the development of rural energy and related rural development projects.[3] The regional commissions are well-placed to coordinate policy development and system-wide involvement in the implementation of energy-related activities and programmes. This seems to be well under way in ECE and ESCAP, both of which should provide valuable models for other regional commissions. There is, in addition, scope for cooperation among the regional commissions, the respective regional development banks and other regional entities.

31. Many activities in energy are undertaken at the country level, during which cooperation and coordination are pursued in various manners in response to the local situation. Such efforts would benefit from a common strategy and enhanced sharing of experiences.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR ENHANCING THE CAPABILITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

32. This section draws heavily on and is similar to the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on ongoing energy-related programmes and activities,[3] which were supported by the participants of the Expert Workshop on fostering the linkage between energy and sustainable development within the international institutions.[4]

33. Major changes are required in the current energy systems in order for them to contribute to sustainable development worldwide. This can only be achieved if all actors involved, including the United Nations system, redouble their efforts in a concerted manner to ensure the development, promotion and implementation of policies and programmes aimed at realizing a sustainable energy future.

34. The entities within the United Nations system have an important role to play in developing a reference framework for the energy-related activities of the United Nations system based on a common understanding of a sustainable energy future, and thereby providing synergies to the activities.[3] Such a framework would promote a balanced and mutually reinforcing approach to economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable energy development and foster partnerships for sustainable energy development with relevant actors outside the United Nations system, particularly with non-United Nations intergovernmental organizations dealing with energy and the private sector. It should be built on the experiences so far gained in inter-agency cooperation and coordination in the energy field.

35. The Commission on Sustainable Development provides a central forum for high-level discussion of issues that are crucial to achieving the goals of sustainable development, including that of a sustainable energy future, at the policy level. The Commission affirmed its functions in coordination with other subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and other related organizations and institutions. It also stated that the work of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development should be more compatible with and supportive of the work programme of the Commission, and that the Economic and Social Council, in carrying out its functions related to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227, should consider the most effective means of bringing this about.[7] The Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development addresses all aspects of energy and should continue to play a valuable role in furthering United Nations policy discussion on energy in the years ahead. To that end, its effectiveness would need to be enhanced, through, inter alia, better representation of Governments, improved dissemination of reports to the Committee and of the Committee and increased participation of the organizations of the United Nations system, including regional commissions in the work of the Committee.

36. Inter-agency cooperation and coordination in the field of energy have been rather ad hoc in previous years. The preparation of the report of the

Secretary-General on energy activities[3] for the Commission on Sustainable Development has marked the beginning of enhanced cooperation and coordination that will be pursued along the following lines:

(a) Convening ad hoc meetings of the entities within the United Nations system dealing with energy in order for them: to elaborate a common reference framework for actions in the field of energy and to achieve coherence and effectiveness in energy activities that contribute to sustainable development (this issue was discussed by the Commission and recommended for further consideration by the General Assembly at its nineteenth session in June 1997[7]); to enhance the exchange of information on the different aspects of energy development and use including policy issues; and to help in the improvement of energy data and information systems of the respective organizations;

(b) Devoting part of the agenda of the sessions of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development to energy on a regular basis and ensuring linkages with energy-related aspects of the work of other Administrative Committee on Coordination bodies;

(c) Cooperating with organizations outside the United Nations system;

(d) Encouraging joint programming and implementation of energy activities of common interest to the entities within the United Nations system.

VI. OPTIONS FOR HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSION ON ENERGY

37. In the continuing debate on the crucial role that energy plays in sustainable development and the continuing need for enhancing energy supplies and improving living conditions in developing countries, a number of suggestions have been made for a high-level discussion on the subject.

38. The Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, at its second session, invited Member States and entities within the United Nations system to consider convening a United Nations conference on energy for the twenty-first century in the year 2001 to mobilize world opinion for supporting actions at different levels on energy in relation to sustainable development. In that connection, the Committee requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report examining the feasibility and the scope of the proposed conference, in consultation with experts, as necessary, and to submit the report to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-second session.[1]

39. The Economic and Social Council, when considering the suggestion of the Committee, requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with regional commissions and entities within the United Nations system, inter alia, to explore all possible options for a high-level discussion on energy, taking into account the results of the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (7-25 April 1997)[10] and of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly.[2]

40. The Vienna Expert Workshop on fostering the linkage between energy and sustainable development within the international institutions suggested that there be a dedicated session of the Commission on Sustainable Development towards a sustainable energy future; such a session might be organized in 2001 or earlier, given the needs and possibilities of a major change in current energy systems. The Workshop stressed that appropriate preparation for the proposed session on energy be ensured upon the approval of the 1998-2002 work programme of the Commission on Sustainable Development.[4]

41. Options for a dedicated session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, possibly in 2001, were discussed by the Commission and put forward for consideration by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session.[7] In the multi-year programme of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the period 1998-2002 that has been forwarded by the Commission on Sustainable Development to the General Assembly for consideration at its nineteenth special session, energy and transport issues are among the subjects proposed for consideration in 2001.[7]

42. Given the fact that options for a high-level discussion on energy are still being considered, no proposals are given at this time.

Notes

[1] Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 4 (E/1996/24), chap. I.

[2] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/51/3 (Part II)), chap. V, sect. B.1, resolution 1996/44.

[3] E/CN.17/1997/7 and Corr.1.

[4] E/CN.17/1997/16, annex.

[5] Energy after Rio: Prospects and Challenges (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.III.B.11).

[6] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

[7] A/S-19/14-E/1997/60.

[8] E/CN.17/1997/17/Add.1.

[9] E/C.13/1996/7.

[10] Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 9 (E/1997/29).